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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE:

**CONFIDENTIAL INFO.**

**SUBJECT** Society of Friends of Republican Spain

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## ORIGIN

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- 25X1 1. The Society of Friends of Republican Spain is a group that has been organized by Communist initiative in the principal cities of Czechoslovakia. Its nucleus is composed of former members of the International Brigades. All political parties are represented in the membership. The chairman is not a Communist. The four deputy chairmen are members respectively of the four Czech parties (Communist, National Socialist, People's, and Social Democrat). However, effective power rests in the hands of the secretary general, Madame Prokopova, who is a Communist, and the Society shows definite Communist leanings in its leadership.
2. The Society has conducted many fund drives in Czechoslovakia for Republican Spain, and the money has been deposited in a bank. By December 1946 collections amounted to 1,000,000 Kcs; another 300,000 Kcs was soon added, and today the total is near 1,500,000 Kcs. There are two conflicting views within the Society as to the use to which the money is to be put. The Democratic parties want to hand it over to the Republican Government, but the Communists and their sympathizers, who distrust the Republican Government, want to give it directly to the guerrillas fighting inside Spain.
3. Six months ago the Ambassador of the Spanish Republic had a meeting with the directors of the Society of Friends of Republican Spain and spoke of the money that had been collected. He seems to have shown very little tact, and at the present time negotiations are at a dead point. Signatures of the representatives of three of the four parties are needed in order to draw the money from the bank, but the Spanish diplomatic mission has made no further move to secure them.
4. A majority of the members of the Society are old-time members of the International Brigades, and Prague is said to be the center of Communist efforts in Central Europe to make use of these ex-combatants in work for Spain.
5. The Society has shifted its main interest from Spain to Greece, and Czech Communists are now collecting money and organizing public meetings for the partisans fighting the Athens government. Subscriptions for Spain are less numerous. On 14 April 1947, the anniversary of the Spanish Republic, there was a meeting at which attendance was much less than usual for the occasion. Several of the speakers, among them Mr. Masaryk, failed to come.
6. Linked with the Society of Friends of Republican Spain is the Czechoslovakia-Latin America Society, which is being organized now. Doctor Majalova, chief of the Spanish Section of the Ministry of Information is on the directorate of both societies. [redacted] Formerly the chief
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Document No.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77 25X1

Approved For Release 2005/05/16 : CIA-RDP82-00477R0007000620004-6

Date: 6 APR 78 By: \_\_\_\_\_

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representative of the Spaniards in the first Society was Tomas Garcia Zamudio. At present Vicente Velasco has the position.

7. The old Ibero-American Society, which had 6,000 members in Prague and had offices and a good library there, was dissolved because of its pro-Franco and collaborationist tendencies during the War.

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